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\*Admitted only in Maryland  
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\*Practice Limited to  
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AF 11652

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**Art Unit 1652**

**Attn: Mail Stop Amendment**

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Application No. 09/306,986; Filed: May 7, 1999  
For: **A Method for Synthesizing a Nucleic Acid Molecule Using a  
Ribonuclease**  
Inventors: Trinh *et al.*  
Our Ref: 0942.4570001/RWE/FRC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
2. Brief on Appeal Under 37 C.F.R. § 41.37 along with Exhibits 1-4;
3. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of **\$2,660.00** to cover the following fees:  
  
\$2,160.00 - Extension of Time fee;  
\$500.00 - Brief on Appeal fee; and
4. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents  
May 1, 2006  
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank R. Cottingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank R. Cottingham  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 50,437

FRC/pcd  
Enclosures

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